

# ***SAFETY ON THE LINE***

A service of the NASA KSC Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate

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**“Few things are harder to put up with than a good example”**

-Mark Twain

## **A True Story**

Recently a neighbor of mine was cutting their one and a half acre yard, which had grown about six inches tall. It was in the morning and the grass was a bit wet.

Every so often the output of the mower deck would get clogged, so she would grab the ends of the grass sticking out and pull out a wad of grass. She rationalized that it would be okay since she wasn't putting her hand in the mower deck (that would be dumb!). She performed this exercise a couple of dozen times. She ended up getting hurt (thank God it wasn't serious) when a wad of grass that she grabbed hold of was caught by the blade and pulled back into the mower deck. Well, it pulled her hand with it and she got a nasty cut on her finger. She never expected the grass to "pull back." She now admits what a unsafe thing it was to pull the grass out, but she said "it always worked before." She was lucky in that she avoided losing a finger, or several fingers, by less than an inch.

If you know it's wrong, don't do it! Don't take the chance. Don't try to save time. Take the time to implement safe practices (safety glasses, unplug equipment, shut off the mower, etc.). Remember the old saying - haste makes waste.

If you would like to submit a personal safety story, follow the instructions on the bottom of the page.

## **Super Safety Day Question and Answer**

### **Are portable defibrillators available at KSC?**

Yes, KSC has four Automated External Defibrillators costing from \$3000 to \$6000 each. The four are located at the

- OHF dispensary
- Spaceport Visitor Center
- Fire rescue vehicle at the PAD 39 Fire Station
- Fire rescue vehicle at the Industrial Area Fire Station

These units are used on cardiac arrest patients, which means that the heart has stopped beating.

These units are used for early defibrillation of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (if the heart is in a "shockable" rhythm). If the heart is in ventricular fibrillation or "V-Fib", the most common early rhythm of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, it will automatically charge and deliver a specific DC shock to the patient. This will convert the V-Fib into a rhythm that will deliver blood to the brain and the rest of the body, thus creating a pulse.



This Super Safety Day question answered by Larry Davis, Health Training Administrator with Comprehensive Health Services. Call him at 867-2027 for more information.



**Questions or comment? Contact Alan or Marguerite at 867-3311, fax number 867-3583, mail code EI-HF or e-mail them at "Safety on the Line" in your global address list**